United Nations A/54/587

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 November 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 99

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Sustainable development and international economic cooperation:

"(a) Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

"(c) Women in development;

"(d) Human resources development;

"(e) International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues;

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in nine parts, under the symbol A/54/587 and Add.1-8.

99-35955 (E) 011299

"(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;

"(g) Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership;

"(h) Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 15th to 17th, 22nd, 23rd, 26th, 27th and 38th meetings, on 19, 20, 26 and 29 October and 11 November 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.15-17, 22, 23, 26, 27 and 38). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
(g)	7
(h)	8

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 99. Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Letter dated 29 December 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/56)

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Yerevan Declaration on Decentralization, adopted at the international conference on the theme "Decentralization in Eastern and Central Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): conditions of success", held at Yerevan from 26 to 28 April 1999 (A/54/97-E/1999/52)

Letter dated 28 June 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final communiqué of the Fourth Summit of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, held at Nairobi on 24 and 25 May 1999 (A/54/170)

Letter dated 8 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a paper entitled "A comprehensive employment strategy", presented by the Group of Fifteen at the eighty-seventh session of the International Labour Conference, held at Geneva from 1 to 17 June 1999 (A/54/171-E/1999/111)

Letter dated 3 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/314-S/1999/942)

Letter dated 17 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/368-S/1999/993)

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Statement on the South Summit, adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 1999 (A/54/432)

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the document entitled "Priorities for action", adopted at the first Summit of the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448)

Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063)

Letter dated 12 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999 (A/C.2/54/5)

Item 99 (a). Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, and implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade (A/54/389)

Item 99 (b). Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its seventeenth session (A/54/8)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/54/322)

Item 99 (c). Women in development

Report of the Secretary-General entitled "1999 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development: Globalization, Gender and Work" (A/54/227)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "An evaluation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/54/156-E/1999/102)

Note by the Secretary-General containing his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "An evaluation of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women" (A/54/156/Add.1-E/1999/102/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General on women in development (A/54/275)

Item 99 (d). Human resources development

Report of the Secretary-General on developing human resources for development (A/54/408)

Item 99 (e). International migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration and development, including the question of the convening of a United Nations conference on international migration and development to address migration issues (A/54/207)

Letter dated 8 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly, transmitting the Bangkok Declaration on Irregular Migration, adopted at the International Symposium on Migration, held at Bangkok from 21 to 23 April 1999 (A/C.2/54/2)

Item 99 (f). Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (A/54/269 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the state of preparations for the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/54/271)

[1] To be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/54/8).

Letter dated 30 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations and Coordinator of the Least Developed Countries in New York addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the text of the Declaration adopted by the Ninth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries, held at United Nations Headquarters on 29 September 1999 (A/C.2/54/3)

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/54/4)

Item 99 (g). Renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership

Note by the Secretary-General on themes for the second high-level dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership (A/54/328)

Letter dated 5 May 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/54/94-S/1999/518)

Item 99 (h). Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/54/442)

4. At the 15th meeting, on 19 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, under sub-item (e); the Director of Technical and Regional Cooperation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, under sub-item (b); and the Director of the Private Sector Development Programme of the United Nations Development Programme, under sub-item (d) (see A/C.2/54/SR.15).

5. At the 22nd meeting, on 26 October, an introductory statement was made by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, under sub-item (h) (see A/C.2/54/SR.22).

6. At the 26th meeting, on 29 October, introductory statements were made by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the representative of the Joint Inspection Unit, under sub-item (c) (see A/C.2/54/SR.26).

7. At the 38th meeting, on 11 November, an introductory statement was made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, under sub-item (f) (see A/C.2/54/SR.38).

United Nations A/54/588

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 November 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 100

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Hussam Edin **A'Ala** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;

"(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

"(c) Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa;

"(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on the item at its 18th to 22nd, 30th, 33rd and 34th meetings, on 22, 25 and 26 October and 2 and 8 November 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/54/588 and Add.1-7.

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(A/C.2/54/SR.18-22, 30, 33 and 34). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be given in the addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	*Addendum*
(a)	1
(b)	2
(c)	3
(d)	4
(e)	5
(f)	6
Proposals not related to a specific sub-item	7

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

Item 100. Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the work of its twentieth session[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the World Solar Programme 1996-2005 (A/54/212)

Report of the Secretary-General on international institutional arrangements related to environment and development (A/54/468)

Letter dated 14 April 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ashgabat Declaration and the joint statement adopted at a meeting of the Heads of State of the five countries held on 9 April 1999 (A/54/80)

Letter dated 17 May 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, held at The Hague from 12 to 15 May 1999 (A/54/98)

Letter dated 26 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Third Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Alliance of Small Island States, issued at United Nations Headquarters on 25 September 1999 (A/54/402)

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration and Ministerial Statement on the South Summit, adopted at the twenty-third annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 24 September 1999 (A/54/432)

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/54/25 and Add.1).

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the document entitled "Priorities for action", adopted at the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448)

Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063)

Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the representatives of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Moscow Declaration of Heads of States Parties to the Treaty on the Customs Union and Unified Economic Space, signed in Moscow on 26 October 1999 (A/54/535)

Letter dated 12 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Cameroon addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Summit of Central African Heads of State on the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests, held at Yaoundé from 12 to 17 March 1999 (A/C.2/54/5)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken in the United Nations system to accelerate progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (A/54/131-E/1999/75)

(b) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/54/132 and Add.1-E/1999/80 and Add.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon (A/54/135-E/1999/88)

Report of the Secretary-General on recommendations on institutional arrangements for disaster reduction activities of the United Nations system after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/54/136-E/1999/89)

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction: successor arrangements (A/54/497)

Letter dated 4 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/54/7)

(c) Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/54/428)

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Letter dated 26 October 1999 from the President of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its fifth session to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/54/6)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (A/54/96)

(f) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee (A/C.2/54/4)

4. At the 18th meeting, on 22 October, introductory statements were made by the Director of the Regional Office for North America of the United Nations Environment Programme and the representative of the Energy and Transport Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs under sub-item (a) (see A/C.2/54/SR.18).

5. At the 20th meeting, on 25 October, introductory statements were made by the Executive Secretary of the secretariat for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, under sub-item (e), and the Executive Secretary of the secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, under sub-item (c) (see A/C.2/54/SR.20).

6. At the 21st meeting, on 25 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement under the item as a whole and under sub-item (d) (see A/C.2/54/SR.21).

7. At the 30th meeting, on 2 November, the Assistant Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement under the item as a whole (see A/C.2/54/SR.30).

8. At the 33rd meeting, on 8 November, the Director of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction secretariat of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs made an introductory statement under sub-item (b) (see A/C.2/54/SR.33).